

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1818

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, GY, IS, KS

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS: GUYANA'S FONMIN ON MIDDLE
EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 220772, (B) GEORGETOWN 1817 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FONMIN WILLS, WHILE PROCLAIMING GUYANA'S SUPPORT FOR
ISRAEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE AS A STATE AND GOG DISFAVOR
OF ANY CURRENT ATTEMPT TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UN, HAS STATED
THAT GUYANA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT
THE ZIONISM AS RACISM RESOLUTION.

THE ARGUMENTS HE USES ARE POLITICAL, I.E. THAT PRESSURES IS
NECESSARY TO INDUCE ISRAEL TO GIVE UP THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND,
SECONDLY, GUYANA WISHES TO EXPRESS DISPLEASURE OVER ISRAEL'S
INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA. WILLS URGED
THAT THE US USE ITS INFLUENCE TO CAUSE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM
THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND TO REALIZE THAT HER RELATIONSHIP WITH
SOUTH AFRICA WOULD LEAD TO HER INCREASING ISOLATION. WILLS ALSO
URGED THAT THE US BEND ALL EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A HOMELAND FOR
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PALESTINIANS AND THUS A STABLE SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.

WILLS EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE US POSITION, ESPECIALLY THAT US DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES LIMITED THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE USG IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE "ZIONISM AS RACISM" ISSUE PROVOKED A LENGTHY COMMENTARY BY FONMIN WILLS DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL ISSUES AT 31ST UNGA. BECAUSE HE LINKED IT TO ISRAEL'S STANCE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND CLAIMED THAT HIS VIEWS ARE SHARED BY LEADERS OF A NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES, HIS COMMENTS ARE REPORTED HEREIN.

2. WILLS BEGAN HIS DISCUSSION BY SAYING HE FIRST WANTED TO MAKE CERTAIN THINGS CLEAR. THESE WERE: (A) GUYANA WAS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC; (B) IT STRONGLY SUPPORTED ISRAEL'S CONTINUED EXISTENCE WITHIN THE BORDERS ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS; AND (C) GUYANA WOULD NOT NOW SUPPORT A MOVE TO EXPEL ISRAEL FROM THE UN OR ITS AGENCIES, BUT COULD ADOPT THAT POSITION IN THE FUTURE SHOULD ISRAEL CONTINUE HER INTRANSIGENCE IN NOT GIVING UP THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, ISRAEL'S INCREASING IDENTIFICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA INCLUDING "MAKING ARMS SALES" WAS HURTING ISRAEL'S OVERALL POSITION.

3. IN WILLS' OPINION, ISRAEL HAD COME OUT OF THE ENTEBBE AFFAIR FAIRLY WELL. THE MATTER HAD BEEN SMOOTHED OVER. THE BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS HAD NOT BEEN PUSHED FARTHER TOWARD THE ARAB CAMP BY IT. BUT ISRAEL'S IDENTIFICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD DO JUST THAT. THE ARQBS WOULD BE THE PRIME BENEFICIARIES OF ISRAEL'S PRESENT DALLIANCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA. HE REMARKED THAT THIS WAS TRUE DESPITE THE GROWING REALIZATION IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE THAT THE ARABS ARE NOT TERRIBLY INTERESTED IN PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WILLS URGED THAT THE US POINT OUT TO ISRAEL THAT HER CLOSENESS TO SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BRING INCREASING ISOLATION. HE COMMENTED: EVENTS ARE PUSHING US INTO A CORNER WHERE AN UNFORTUNATE RESOLUTION IS COMING".

4. OF TERRORISM BY PALESTINIAN GROUPS, WILLS SAID GUYANA STRONGLY OPPOSES SUCH ACTIVITY. NO ONE COULD REALISTICALLY EXPECT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HOWEVER, UNTIL THE PALESTINIANS HAVE A HOMELAND. WILLS URGED THAT THE UNITED STATES WORK TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA WERE FINE, BUT WERE NO SUBSTITUTE FOR A SOLUTION TO THE BASIC PROBLEM.

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5. WILLS SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THE ZIONISM AS RACISM ISSUE. HE REALIZED THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS THE UNITED STATES HAD TO GIVE UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO THE ISRAELIS AND THAT LIMITED THE USG'S FLEXIBILITY IN TAKING INITIATIVES

HE RESPECTED OUR POSITION, HE SAID, BUT HOPED THAT THE US WOULD SIMILARLY RESPECT GUYANA'S POSITION.

6. I TOLD WILLS I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL HAD ERODED AWAY IN AFRICA PRIOR TO ANY INDICATION THAT THE ISRAELIS HAD CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, BUT HE STUCK TO HIS THESIS THAT ISRAEL'S POSITION COULD BE IMPROVED VIS-A-VIS THE AFRICAN STATES BY COOLING HER RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA LACKEN

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